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22 May 2012

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1-125. **(Canceled).**

126. **(Currently Amended)** A method of stimulating growth of high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or of resuscitating dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells, the method comprising

(i) contacting the high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or the dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells *in vitro* with an isolated polypeptide having at least 50% sequence identity with amino acid residues 117 to 184 of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said polypeptide is capable of stimulating growth of the high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or of resuscitating the dormant, moribund, or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells; and

(ii) incubating said high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or said dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells in culture medium containing the polypeptide, thereby stimulating the growth of said high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or resuscitating said dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells.

127. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 126, wherein the polypeptide is recombinant.

128-130. **(Canceled).**

131. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 126 or 127, wherein the polypeptide is in unit dosage form.

132-143. **(Canceled).**